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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-12. (canceled)

13.   (currently amended): A method to design primers ~~wherein said primers~~ to identify and target a first nucleotide sequence wherein the expression of said first nucleotide sequence results in at least one phenotypic characteristic, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a second nucleotide sequence that is known to result in the phenotypic characteristic wherein the first nucleotide sequence and second nucleotide sequence are derived from different species;

comparing the second nucleotide sequence to nucleotide sequences cataloged in one or more databases that annotate nucleotide sequences with phenotypic characteristics;

extracting any cataloged nucleotide sequences that contain a portion of the second nucleotide sequence and which are annotated with said phenotypic characteristic;

aligning the second nucleotide sequence to each extracted nucleotide sequence;

prioritizing according to statistical analysis the extracted nucleotide sequences based on at least percent similarity with sequences having the highest percent similarity being highest in priority to ensure alignment to the second nucleotide sequence as determined by said statistical analysis; and

designing one or more primers based on matching portions of the aligned prioritized sequences, ~~said portions being of sufficient length to~~ which primers identify and target said first nucleotide sequence.

14.   (previously presented): The method of claim 13, further comprising the step prior to the step of extracting cataloged nucleotide sequences of filtering the second nucleotide sequence to eliminate portions which are regions commonly found in encoding nucleotide sequences.

15.   (canceled)

16.   (previously presented): The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of cloning said first nucleotide sequence using the one or more designed primers.

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17.   (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more databases are selected from cataloged sequences for humans, rats, mice, zebra fish, frogs, Drosophila, nematode, C. elegans, mosquito and bacteria.

18.   (canceled)

19.   (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the one or more primers are nested.

20-24.   (canceled)

25.   (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the second nucleotide sequence is aligned to each extracted nucleotide sequence by comparing deduced amino acid sequences.

26.   (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the second nucleotide sequence is aligned to each extracted nucleotide sequence by comparing the nucleotide sequences.

27-33.   (canceled)

34.   (previously presented): A system for designing primers which primers target a first nucleotide sequence wherein the expression of said first nucleotide sequence results in at least one phenotypic characteristic comprising:

one or more computers collectively having program means thereon for performing the method of claim 1; and

one or more databases containing the cataloged gene sequences; and

a communication link connecting the computer or computers to said one or more databases.

35.   (canceled)

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36.   (previously presented): The system of claim 34, wherein the program means filters the second nucleotide sequence to eliminate portions which are regions commonly found in encoding nucleotide sequences.

37-38. (canceled)

39.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the one or more databases are selected from cataloged gene sequences for humans, rats, mice, zebra fish, frogs, Drosophila, nematode, C. elegans, mosquito and bacteria.

40.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the phenotypic characteristic is expression in insect mid-gut epithelium.

41.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the one or more primers are nested.

42-46. (canceled)

47.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the selected gene sequence is aligned to each extracted nucleotide sequence by comparing deduced amino acid sequences.

48.   (previously presented): The system of claim 36, wherein the second nucleotide sequence is aligned to each extracted gene sequence by comparing nucleotide sequences.

49-59. (canceled)

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60.   (currently amended): A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for designing primers ~~wherein said primers~~ to identify and target a first nucleotide sequence wherein the expression of said first nucleotide sequence results in at least one phenotypic characteristic, said computer program comprising:

means for providing a second nucleotide sequence that results in the phenotypic characteristic wherein the first nucleotide sequence and second nucleotide sequence are derived from different species;

means for providing at least one database containing nucleotide sequences cataloged therein wherein said catalog annotates said sequences to resulting phenotypic characteristics;

means for extracting from said at least one database a plurality of cataloged nucleotide sequences containing a portion of the said second nucleotide sequence and which are annotated with said phenotypic characteristic;

means for aligning said second nucleotide sequence with said cataloged gene sequences;

means for prioritizing according to statistical analysis the extracted gene sequences based on at least percent similarity with sequences having the highest percent similarity being highest in priority to ensure alignment with the second nucleotide sequence; and

means for designing one or more primers based on matching portions of the aligned prioritized sequences, ~~said portions being of sufficient length to~~ which primers identify and target said first nucleotide sequence.

61.   (previously presented): The computer program of claim 60, further comprising a code segment for filtering the second nucleotide sequence to eliminate portions which are regions commonly found in encoding nucleotide sequences.

62-63. (canceled)

64.   (previously presented): The computer program of claim 60, wherein the one or more databases are selected from cataloged gene sequences for humans, rats, mice, zebra fish, frogs, Drosophila, nematode, C. elegans, mosquito and bacteria.

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65.　　(previously presented):　The computer program of claim 60, wherein the phenotypic characteristic is expression in insect mid-gut epithelium.

66.　　(previously presented):　The computer program of claim 60, wherein the one or more primers are nested.

67-71.　(canceled)

72.　　(previously presented):　The computer program of claim 60, wherein the second nucleotide sequence is aligned to each extracted nucleotide sequence by comparing deduced amino acid sequences.

73.　　(previously presented):　The computer program of claim 60, wherein the second nucleotide sequence is aligned to each extracted nucleotide sequence by comparing deduced nucleic acid sequences.

74-80.　(canceled)

81.　　(previously presented):　An article of manufacture comprising a computer medium having the computer readable program code of claim 60 embodied therein.

82.　　(previously presented):　The article of manufacture of claim 81, wherein said medium is:

a server, a hard drive, a CD-ROM or a diskette.